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ST. HELENA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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ST. HELENA 1/

I. GENERAL

1. The Territory of St. Helena, which is administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, consists of the island of St. Helena and two dependencies: the island of Ascension and a group of islands forming the dependency of Tristan da Cunha.

2. Situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, approximately 1,900 kilometres from Angola and 2,900 kilometres from Brazil, the Territory covers a total land area of 412 square kilometres. Ascension lies 1,200 kilometres to the north-west of St. Helena, and Tristan da Cunha and the other five small islands forming that dependency are approximately 2,400 kilometres to the south of it. St. Helena, where Jamestown, the capital of the Territory, is located, is the largest island, with an area of 122 square kilometres.

3. The estimated population of St. Helena, excluding its dependencies, was 5,500 as of 1987. 2/ Approximately one third is resident at Jamestown. The next largest communities are situated at Long Wood, in the east of the island, and at Half Tree Hollow, in the north-west. The remainder of the population live in small cottage communities or single cottages.

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. General

4. A detailed account of conditions and constitutional and political developments relating to St. Helena and its dependencies was provided in the 1989 and 1990 working papers on the Territory prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/978 and A/AC.109/1016).

B. Action by the General Assembly

5. On 20 November 1990, the General Assembly adopted, by a recorded vote of 110 to 2, with 32 abstentions, decision 45/409 on the question of St. Helena. By that decision, the Assembly urged the administering Power, in consultation with the Legislative Council and other representatives of the people of St. Helena, to continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in respect of the Territory and, in that connection, reaffirmed the importance of promoting an awareness among the people of St. Helena of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination. The Assembly noted with deep concern the continued presence of military facilities on the dependency of Ascension Island and urged the administering Power to take all the necessary measures not to involve the Territory in any offensive acts or interference against neighbouring States by the racist regime of South Africa.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

6. St. Helena possesses few natural resources. Agriculture, largely of a subsistence nature, is the main economic activity on St. Helena. Food production is insufficient to supply the island's needs and this, together with the lack of manufacturing industries, results in the importation of the vast majority of its requirements.

7. The cost of living in St. Helena is thus markedly higher than in the United Kingdom; it has been reported that goods overall were 30 per cent more expensive after transport. 3/ There is no value-added tax on St. Helena; import duties and the mark-up on non-food items offset that, however.

B. Public finance

8. The main items of estimated revenue, including the British Government grant-in-aid, and expenditure for 1988-1990 were as follows:

(In thousands of St. Helena pounds) a/

	1988/89 b/	1989/90
Revenue		
Direct taxes	488.5	623.5
Indirect taxes	798.6	840.7
Fines, fees and charges	170.7	111.4
Government rents and hires	65.5	88.2
Earnings of Government	236.1	118.3
Treasury receipts	396.5	455.5
Other	50.0	25.0
Total ordinary revenue	2 205.9	2 262.6
Grant-in-aid	3 542.5	3 950.0
Total	5 748.4	6 212.6
Expenditure		
Government	814.2	889.7
Treasury and customs	740.4	600.0
Pensions and gratuities	234.0	270.8
Education	633.2	775.1
Public health	675.7	918.2
Social services	660.2	789.0
Agriculture and forestry	737.5	733.4
Public works and services	1 220.0	1 257.1
Other	33.2	23.0
Total	5 748.4	6 256.3

a/ The local currency is the St. Helena pound, which is equivalent to the pound sterling. St. Helena currency notes, introduced in 1976, and United Kingdom coins are legal tender.

b/ Estimated.

9. The principal forms of taxation are income tax; withholding tax, payable by non-residents on incomes accruing in or deriving from the Territory, at a current rate of 25 per cent; personal tax, levied on persons whose incomes from outside St. Helena exceed £1,250 (married) or £950 (single), at the rate of £200 per annum for a single person and £400 per annum for a married person; and entertainment tax, charged on the price of admission to public entertainment at the rate of 20 per cent.

10. The Territory's statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 1989 stood as follows:

(In St. Helena pounds)

Liabilities		Assets	
Deposits	2 183 927	Cash held locally by Ascension and Crown Agents, London	1 516 022
Special funds:			
Savings bank	3 972 279	Development: Special funds	21 455
Other funds	21 996		
Consolidated Fund	57 121	Development: Savings bank	3 643 986
		Development Fund	-78 529
		Advances	900 487
		Trading account	231 902
Total	6 235 323		6 235 323

C. Development projects

11. The St. Helena development programme is financed mainly through the overseas aid programme of the United Kingdom Government. Detailed proposals for individual projects are discussed in the context of the annual budget (after negotiations between the island administration and the Overseas Development Administration (ODA)) by the Executive Council, and subsequently ratified at the budget session of the Legislative Council.

12. A new power station costing £1.5 million and financed from development funds was opened in 1986. Further development funds have been allocated to replace or upgrade power-transmission lines. The system is also being extended to the communities at Blue Hill and Sandy Bay. The installed capacity of the new station is 1,712 megawatts. The two power stations generated a total of 3,427,173 kilowatt-hours during the period under review.

13. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided $US 695,000 to finance a five-year term (1987-1992) livestock development programme, preliminary activities of which began in 1987. The long-term objective of the project is to provide St. Helena with an efficient and effective livestock industry, as well as to provide productive employment, increase agricultural income and to make the island largely self-sufficient in pig and cattle feed.

Estimated development aid expenditure, 1988-1990

(In thousands of St. Helena pounds)

	Approved total grant		Expenditure	
Projects	1988/89	1989/90	1988/89	1989/90
Agriculture and forestry:				
(a) Pasture improvement	632.0	632.0	60.2	61.7
(b) Extension services	75.0	75.0	7.1	45.8
(c) Forestry	1 164.0	1 373.0	240.1	274.7
Public utilities:				
(a) Water supply	1 000.5	1 192.5	76.8	584.5
(b) Electric supply (power station)	-	681.8	-	128.6
Agriculture Development Authority (ADA)	145.0	-	2.0	-
Fisheries	-	600.0	-	118.8
Plant and equipment	-	-	-	-
Social and administrative services	5 310.0	5 317.5	632.8	744.7
Small Industries Authority	-	-	-	-
Administrative and miscellaneous services	1 892.0	118.0	44.4	70.8
Total	10 209.5	9 989.8	1 063.4	2 029.6

14. The European Economic Community (EEC), UNDP and the World Health Organization (WHO) are among the aid donors that have expressed an interest in funding further development projects.

D. Agriculture, land tenure and livestock

15. The total area of the island is 47 square miles, or 12,059 hectares, approximately two thirds of which is barren. The results of the land use survey carried out using aerial photography for the purpose of producing new maps are as follows:

Land use	Hectares	Percentage
Arable	54.4	-
Gardens	323.1	3
Pasture	1 383.3	11
Forest/woodland	632.2	6
Scrub	2 576.9	21
Flax	335.0	3
Cleared flax	76.5	-
Barren a/	5 547.6	46
Bad land	916.7	8
Urban	213.3	2
Total	12 059.0	100

a/ Most of the barren (unutilized) land is Crown waste.

16. The ownership of pasture and cultivated land is as follows:

Pasture land	Hectares	Percentage
Government-owned commonages		
Deadwood	176.4	13
Thomsons Wood and Man and Horse	247.7	18
Churchyard and Botleys	57.1	4
Sanes Valley	42.1	3
The Orchard	3.3	-
Mackintosh	4.5	-
Fishers Valley	5.5	-
Government owned, farmed by ADA	362.0	26
Owned by Solomon and Company (quasi Government)	175.0	13
Owned by W. A. Thorpe and Sons (private)	124.1	9
Other privately owned	185.5	13
Total	1 383.2	99

Cultivated land		
Government owned, farmed by ADA	25.0	33
Government owned, farmed by A & F	8.2	11
Owned by Solomon and Company	16.4	22
Partly government owned, partly privately owned, farmed privately	26.4	34
Total	76.0	100

17. Freehold and leasehold land tenure exists, the former dating back to the time of the East India Company. Householders lease their house plots on a short-term basis only, although leases are transferable when houses are sold. Freeholds of .10 hectares per house plots are now being offered for sale, however. Licences for government land leased to the public for agricultural purposes are issued by the Agriculture and Forestry Department. The cost of the licences was considerably increased in 1989 to reflect the true value of the land. In addition, the land was re-categorized as follows: food garden with fence; food garden without fence; grazing paddock; fodder production; and non-arable. There are no development programmes which integrate the use and ownership of land and water resources. The Immigrants Land-Holding (Restriction) Ordinance, 1969, provides for the restriction of land-holding by immigrants in St. Helena. Approval for housing plots in national forest lands must be given by the Governor in Council.

18. The only export crop produced on the island is coffee. Some 1.5 tons of coffee were exported in February 1990. All other crops grown on the island are food or fodder crops, but it is not self-sufficient in these products. Potatoes are the main carbohydrate staple, although this is greatly supplemented by imported rice. According to a consumption survey and a farm survey carried out in 1989, the annual agricultural production was as follows: potatoes, 225 tons; pumpkin, 42 tons; brassica, 89 tons; onions, 10 tons; others/mixed vegetables, 93 tons; fodder crops, 511 tons; and fruit, including bananas, 85 tons.

19. Agricultural administration is carried out by the Director of Agricultural and Natural Resources who is a member of, and is responsible to, the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee of the Legislative Council, the body that sets agricultural policy.

20. Assistance for agricultural production is provided by the Agricultural Assistance Revolving Fund loan scheme, administered by the Agriculture and Forestry Services. New loans during 1989 amounted to £13,291. The loans are used almost entirely for the purchase of livestock or livestock feed. Only 10 per cent of the loans in 1989 were for capital goods. Loans for the purchase of vehicles and other machinery may be obtained from private or government sources.

21. A full-time farmers scheme was started in 1980. The scheme was designed to encourage new farmers into agriculture by paying them a three-day week wage for two years. It was modified in 1991 by extending it to four years but reducing the income received by 25 per cent per annum. Poor results from the scheme have precipitated a decision to phase it out, and no further applications are being accepted. A Small Farmers Assistance Project is aimed at assisting farmers by giving grants of 50 per cent to 100 per cent for land clearance, pasture establishments, fencing for pasture improvement, terracing, farm water supply, livestock housing and contract forestry.

22. The St. Helena Growers' Cooperative Society, which has 23 members, provides an annual bonus for members. Facilities for grading, storing and the primary processing of produce are minimal.

23. Seeds are available mainly through the Growers' Cooperative and a private importer. A considerable quantity is imported privately by many individuals. The Agriculture and Forestry Department sold over 300,000 plant seedlings in 1989. Some machinery (rotovators) and hand tools are available through private shop keepers. Fertilizers and pesticides are supplied mainly by the Agriculture and Forestry Department.

24. Agricultural research has expanded and improved during the period under review, as a result of increased training and financing. The research work has identified legumes as being appropriate for pasture improvement, and the fertilizer needs of pastures and trees suitable for dry-land afforestation.

25. Agricultural extension has been improved by the appointment of an extension/training officer to work with the Department in livestock, pest control and agronomy.

26. The number of employees involved in agriculture and livestock services and the estimated expenditure during 1988/89 and 1989/90 are set out below:

	Established staff		Estimated expenditure (Thousands of St. Helena pounds)	
Service	1988/89	1989/90	1988/89	1989/90
General and administrative	16	19	49.4	59.7
Agronomy	1	2	4.7	5.9
Extension and pest control	3	3	7.6	8.0
Livestock services	3	3	7.4	7.5
Forestry services	4	3	12.8	7.4
Youth training and horticultural centres	2	3	6.9	6.2
Transport and mechanical services	1	4	5.8	11.7
	30	37	94.6	106.4
Part-time labour	a/	a/	a/	a/
Development-aid projects (labour)	1 541	1 541	302.5	265.4

a/ Not specified.

27. During the period under review, two reservoirs were built for agricultural purposes, one at Tobacco Plain with a capacity of 681,900 litres and the other at Cotton Field with a 500,060-litre capacity. Both of these will be used for irrigation purposes by private small-scale farmers.

28. The principal kinds of livestock of the Territory are cattle, sheep and pigs. Livestock production in 1988/89 and 1989/90 was as follows:

	1988/89	1989/90
Cattle	381	277
Sheep	393	244
Pigs	1 100	1 410

29. There is some processing of pork products, but it is insufficient to meet local demand. No use is made of hide and wool, although some of the wool clip is occasionally exported.

30. Subsidized-cost veterinary treatment is offered to all livestock owners by the Agriculture and Forestry Department.

E. Forestry

31. According to the administering Power, the following priorities have been defined for forestry development: the utilization of all suitable land resources not allocated to agricultural development, urban housing, industrial and amenity use for the production of forest crops; the development of a systematic and appropriate forest research programme that addresses primary deficiencies in the database required for effective forest management and the fulfilment of local needs; the identification and implementation of methods by which forestry operations can be made commercially viable, or the clear identification of the social subsidy elements involved; the maximization of the area of hardwood forest while maintaining sufficient supplies of firewood and softwood to meet the expanding needs of the Territory; the maintenance and expansion of the environmental conservation programme, particularly that element concerned with endemic flora; the development of human resources by means of in-house and overseas training to a level whereby maximum benefits will accrue to the island; striking a balance between mechanization, and employing the optimum number of staff to allow all aspects of the forestry operations to become economically viable; and the development of value-added wood processing, which would not only utilize local timber but would also provide gainful employment and export opportunities.

32. During the period under review, a revised forest list based on parcel numbers with accurate gross areas was completed, and a forest map on a scale of 1:10,000 was drafted for an ordnance survey. These were included in the proposed forestry development project, which is awaiting approval.

33. Successive forestry projects funded under Development Aid have been undertaking programmes of flaxland and dryland afforestation and associated work, such as the development of the sawmill and the construction of forest tracks. During the period under review, 34 hectares of flax and 25 hectares of scrub were cleared. Approximately 31,000 trees were planted in productive forests and 4,000 in dryland forests. The species involved are mainly Pinus pinaster, Grevillea robusta, Acacia melanoxylon and Acacia decurens. Advice on alternative species is being given by a forestry research adviser.

Forestry production

(In pounds sterling)

	1988/89	1989/90
Sawn timber (mixed species)	24 885	34 300
Firewood	16 986	21 600
Fence posts	-	3 900
Total	41 871	59 800

34. Forestry management and practical training continues overseas, with one employee returned from training and one currently pursuing a course.

F. Fisheries

35. The principal resource of the Territory is its fishing industry. Large tunas are available all year round. Skipjack and tuna represent the greatest potential and are normally present from February to June. Mackerel and various demersal species, such as grouper, are available all year round. Off-shore resources associated with the two known seamounts, Bonaparte and Cardno, within the 200-mile exclusive fishing zone were quantified by the off-shore survey, 1985-1987. Using a conservative estimate, 80 tons of tuna, mainly yellowfin, can be taken from the Bonaparte Seamount each year from a standing stock calculated at 140 to 230 tons.

36. The St. Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC) was established in November 1979 by an ordinance enacted by the Governor. Under the St. Helena Fisheries Ordinance, the Governor appoints a Management Board, which sets the policy of the corporation and is charged with the duty "to engage on a commercial basis in the business of fishing and fish marketing in St. Helena and overseas and, in so far as it is compatible with these prime objects, to render assistance and make loans to persons engaged in fishing and fish marketing within the St. Helena fishery limits". Employment within the corporation during 1989/90 was 27 full-time and 22 casual jobs, which represents an overall decrease of 18 jobs compared to 1985/86, excluding fishermen.

37. Landings by the local fleet occur daily and according to the conditions of the fishing licences are offered for sale to SHFC. The existing fishing fleet is based mainly upon open, wooden boats and powered by small inboard diesel engines of 8 to 20 horsepower. Within the past 10 years all the old boats and any new constructions are sheathed in glass reinforced plastic. In addition, there are four imported fishing boats, which are equipped with fitted tanks for holding live bait. There are 16 full-time and 8 part-time fishing boats with crews of two to three fishermen per vessel. Fishing gear remains much unchanged, with rods and reels, handlines and poles in regular use. Purchases of fish from the local fleet by the corporation during the period from 1986/87 to 1989/90 were as follows:

Year	Tons	Value (St. Helena pounds)
1986/87	381	110 305
1987/88	353	105 961
1988/89	452	127 132
1989/90 a/	450	130 000

a/ Estimates.

38. Fish is marketed six days a week through fixed stalls at Jamestown and Longwood and a mobile service is provided to the surburban and rural areas of the island. Fish is exported only if there is a surplus to the domestic requirements. Exports are in frozen or salt-dried form. Frozen tuna, grouper and Wahoo are normally sold to a buyer at Billingsgate Market in the United Kingdom, while dried-salted skipjack and small quantities of shark are exported to Cape Town, South Africa, and, recently, to Tenerife, Canary Islands. Local sales and export statistics are as follows:

Year	Local sales		Exports	
	Tons	Value (pounds sterling)	Tons	Value (pounds sterling)
1986/87	107.69	98 311	85.63	85 666
1987/88	117.71	110 670	77.12	78 120
1988/89	116.98	115 805	92.46	88 057
1989/90 a/	109.80	121 522	154.54	128 124

a/ Estimates.

39. Following the completion of the Inshore Fisheries Development Project in 1986, production began on a range of dried and salted and frozen marine products. Export markets have been identified, and export demand for several products exceeds production. An offshore survey has demonstrated that there are exploitable resources associated with the Bonaparte and Cardno Seamounts.

40. Tests on the three inshore prototype fishing boats identified the Sandskipper as the most suitable craft for fishing all around the island. The second phase of the Fisheries Development Project, which is to last three years, was approved by ODA in 1989. The project is designed to assist St. Helena to expand its inshore and offshore fisheries. It provides for five new inshore vessels with a superior platform that would replace obsolete and aged vessels; a suitable offshore fishing vessel capable of fishing the seamount tuna stocks; and development of the onshore processing and service facilities onto a single site at Ruperts. Work has commenced on the onshore facilities.

41. Staff training has been an integral part of development. In 1990, a staff member was in the final year of study in a food science and technology course at the Humberside College of Higher Education in the United Kingdom.

42. In April 1986, the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association submitted to the Governor of St. Helena a request for vessels of the Japanese longline tuna fishery to be granted licences to operate in the fishery limits of St. Helena and Ascension. The Licensing Agreement was concluded in 1988; licences in the first instance were for 12 months from 1 June 1988 onwards. Apart from licence fees, there was an agreement to

provide a range of goods and services for the fisheries development of the Territory, specifically materials and equipment for or related to fishing operations, fish culture, fish processing and marketing, fisheries research and fisheries training. Licences for vessels to fish in the second year were renewed. An agreement has also been reached between the St. Helena Government and the Aubacora Fishing Company, a Portuguese company based at Madeira that operates out of Cape Town, for two of its vessels to fish for tuna and bait fish in the fishery limits of St. Helena and Ascension. The licences are for a period of two years effective 1 April 1990.

43. St. Helena participated as an observer in the meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, held at Madeira in November 1989.

44. In 1989, a Fishermen's Association of St. Helena was formed, its main function being to promote the interests of its members.

G. Industries

45. There is no large-scale industry on St. Helena. All crafts are practised on a cottage-industry basis, with technical, financial and marketing facilities provided for by the Government, through the Home Industries Section. A brewery, which was opened in 1982, was producing an average of 1,318 litres a month by 31 March 1988. The brewery subsequently suffered a downward trend in production and sales which, at 31 March 1989, were £9,200, compared with £14.600 at 31 March 1988. There is no industrial development financed by outside investment.

H. Mining

46. There is no significant mining activity in the Territory, and such minerals as have been found to exist are not in sufficient quantity to be worth exploiting. Some guano is extracted for use as fertilizer. A geological survey of the Territory was conducted in 1968. In 1981, a London University team visited St. Helena to study the geomorphology of the Territory.

I. Transport, communications and utilities

47. There is no airport or airstrip on St. Helena, and no railway. The only port is Jamestown, which provides good anchorage for ships of any size. The island's main link with the outside world continued to be the RMS St. Helena, which is owned and chartered by the St. Helena Shipping Company, Ltd., and which plies between Avonmouth in the United Kingdom and Cape Town in South Africa, with calls at the Cape Verde Islands and Ascension. The service receives an annual subsidy of some £2 million from the United Kingdom.

48. In June 1987, the United Kingdom Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Minister for Overseas Development stated that tender documents had been issued to a number of shipbuilding firms inviting bids for the construction of a replacement vessel for the St. Helena service. 7/ The initial cost of the new vessel is estimated at from £18 million to £20 million. In December 1987, it was announced that the contract had been awarded to Hall Russell, Ltd., of Aberdeen, United Kingdom, subject to contract negotiations. 4/ In November 1988, Hall Russell went into receivership and in February 1989 the joint receivers sold its assets. Subsequently, a contract to complete the ship was concluded by ODA, acting on behalf of the Government of St. Helena, with the yard's new owner, A. and P. Appledore (Aberdeen), Ltd. The ship was scheduled to be launched on 31 October 1989. 5/

49. The construction of new roads and the upgrading of existing ones continued to form a significant part of both recurrent and development expenditure. Additional road surfacing was carried out during the period under review, bringing the length of surfaced roads in the Territory to 99.43 kilometres.

50. An automatic telephone exchange with an associated-line plant, capable of connecting 600 subscribers, was commissioned in April 1983. As of 1989, there were 556 subscribers connected to the automatic system and 21 subscribers on the manual system in the rural areas. Normal telegraph facilities, international telephones and telex lines are operated by Cable and Wireless, Ltd.

51. Since 1981, the fuel requirements of the island have been met by a small tanker, which brings in bulk supplies from the Canary Islands and acts as a floating storage depot.

52. During the period from 1 April 1989 to 31 March 1990, a total of 453,385 cubic metres of treated and untreated water were supplied for domestic, commercial and agricultural purposes. Treated water-supply remained at a reasonable standard. Financial approval was given by ODA for implementation of four water-supply projects.

53. Electricity supply for the Territory is provided by the Energy Division of the Public Works and Services Department. A total of 4,612,400 kilowatt-hours were generated during the period under review. Electricity is generated by Ruperts Valley power station. Fuel is imported in bulk and pumped ashore. There are 45 kilometres of high voltage line carrying electricity to most of the Territory and 112 distribution transformers are connected en route. In September 1989, an electricity distribution rehabilitation project, at a total cost of £665,000 was approved.

J. Banking and credit

54. The only bank is the Government Savings Bank. It does not, however, offer the full range of normal commercial banking facilities. Limited credit facilities for house building and home improvements are made available on very easy terms through the Government Housing Loans Board and the Government Savings Bank. Total deposits at the Government Savings Bank at 31 March 1989 amounted to £3,077,399, compared with £2,664,792 at 31 March 1988.

55. All financial transactions are ultimately channelled through London, and United Kingdom bank rates apply. No exchange controls operate on the island to the extent that overseas transactions are channelled through London. United Kingdom control measures apply. The deficit on the island's trading operations is in effect borne by the United Kingdom Treasury grant-in-aid. Local currency in circulation at 31 March 1990 was £2,464,087, comprising £2,185,467 in notes and £278,620 in coins.

K. International trade

56. St. Helena's main imports are food products and tobacco, motor spirits and fuel oil, animal feed, building materials, motor vehicles, machinery and spare parts. Its only exports are fish and handicrafts. Its main trading partners remain the United Kingdom and South Africa, which supply 60 and 32 per cent, respectively, of all imports. Others include Brazil, which provides 1.6 per cent of imports, and Ascension. During 1986/87, total imports to the Territory were valued at £5,048,710, compared with £5,212,145 in 1985/86.

57. Most customs duties are charged on an ad valorem basis. Other items, however, notably wines, spirits and petrol, are charged at a specific rate per unit. A wide range of goods is admitted free of duty, among which are mostly food, clothing, building materials, machinery, animal feed, coal, timber and household goods.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. General

58. Living standards are reported to be improving in St. Helena as various development projects continue to employ both skilled and unskilled workers. Wages remitted to St. Helena by workers on Ascension and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) have enabled many families to build new homes or to improve the standard of existing ones. The rate of inflation continued to increase, however. The retail price index at 1 March 1989 stood at 105.3 (November 1988 = 100).

59. Offshore savings have been utilized by individual families to improve their personal living standards, and the extension of electricity to the more remote parts of the island has increased the sales of electric equipment generally.

60. According to the administering Power, there are no racial or cultural problems in the Territory, which consists of a homogeneous English-speaking community with a single education system.

61. The Social Welfare Department of the Territory is headed by a social welfare officer, who is also responsible for children's services, school attendance, probation and employment.

B. Labour

62. The government labour policy is to create the maximum number of job opportunities and to provide as much training as capacity and funds permit. Following the collapse of the flax industry, the Government of St. Helena has become the major employer of labour on the island, with the Ascension Island "User" and Falkland Islands (Malvinas) organizations fulfilling a vital role. According to the administering Power, at March 1990, the numbers of St. Helenians employed on Ascension, on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and in the United Kingdom for tours of one to two years were as follows:

Ascension	Number
Cable and Wireless, Ltd.	18
Computer Science and Raytheon	157
British Broadcasting Corporation	70
South Atlantic Cable Company	2
Volcano Club	10
Compsite Signals Organization	11
Ascension Island Services	142
Property Services Agency	75
Government	20
Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI)	7
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/Bendix	21
	533

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Number
NAAFI	30
Kelvin International	34
Turner Diesel	34
Falkland Island Government	31
Seafarer Marine Services	7
Falkland Island Company	1
	137
United Kingdom	
(For the period from 1 January 1989 to 31 December 1989)	54

63. All St. Helenian labour contracts on Ascension and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) are negotiated in terms of the Workmen's Protection Ordinance. A small number of St. Helenians are employed on migrant labour contracts in the United Kingdom, mainly in domestic service. Such contracts are made under the Contracts of Service Ordinance, 1951, and are certified by the Attesting Officer prior to departure.

64. During 1989/90, the territorial Government gave serious consideration to the restructuring of employment. A policy has been adopted that the Government can no longer guarantee employment for everyone. Community work for 100 people for three days each week is available for the unemployed. Those who are unable to obtain a position on this scheme and are willing and able to work can apply for unemployment allowances. Community employment is available to both men and women.

65. As of the end of March 1990, there were 102 persons of both sexes between the ages of 18 and 60 years employed to do community work, and 11 males and 50 females registered as unemployed. Seasonal employment is provided for between 20 and 30 females in fish processing by the St. Helena Fisheries Corporation, a statutory Corporation, and St. Helena Canneries. No migrant labour is employed on St. Helena except for a small number of expatriates employed in the public service. Work permits are required and are granted only if suitable St. Helenians are not available.

66. On the recommendation of a team of consultants from ODA, a new scheme for social security was implemented on 1 July 1989. The scheme provides a set of rules with a limited amount of flexibility and with built-in incentives for people to work. The rates of benefits are structured within and relate to the average weekly wage. In June 1989, an employment unit was set up under the Department of Employment and Social Services with the aim of promoting

employment opportunities both locally and overseas and of performing all other administrative duties connected with labour surveys, records, statistics and research.

67. The St. Helena General Workers' Union remains the only trade union representative of workers' interests. The union is affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and associated with the Trade Union Congress of the United Kingdom. Relations between the Government and the union are reported to be good.

68. During the period under review, the principal categories of wage earners in St. Helena were: agricultural labourers, 377 persons; skilled and general labourers, 373; mechanics, engineers and motor drivers, 119 persons; building tradesmen and apprentices, 98; and fishermen and boatmen, 56.

69. The basic work-week for the majority of employees is 37 hours over a five-day period, from Monday to Friday. Government office employees work a 35-hour (exclusive of a mid-day break), five-day week. Shop assistants work a five-and-a-half-day week, with a half-day holiday on Wednesdays. In the small commercial sector, hours vary from 40 to 45 during a five-and-a-half-day week. Sunday is a day of rest; public holidays are observed on Good Friday, Easter Monday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Her Majesty the Queen's Official Birthday and St. Helena Day (21 May).

70. During the period under review, average weekly rates of pay were as follows:

	Wages (St. Helena pounds)
Agricultural labourers:	
Government	36.95
Commercial	41.04
General labourer:	
Government	36.95
Commercial	41.60
Skilled labour:	
Government	40.00
Commercial	45.00
Apprentices:	
Government	20.02

71. The following International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions have been applied to St. Helena without modification: No. 3, Maternity Protection, 1919; No. 5, Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Industrial Employment; No. 7, Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Employment at Sea; No. 8, Unemployment Indemnity in Case of Loss or Foundering of Ship; No. 10, Minimum Age (Agriculture), 1921 - 24 February 1964; No. 11, Rights of Association and Combination of Agricultural Workers; No. 12, Workmen's Compensation in Agriculture; No. 14, Weekly Rest (Industry), 1921 - 27 March 1950; No. 15, Minimum Age for Admission of Young Persons to Employment as Trimmers or Stokers; No. 16, Compulsory Medical Examination of Children and Young Persons Employed at Sea; No. 19, Equality of Treatment for National and Foreign Workers as Regards Workmen's Compensation for Accidents; No. 26, Minimum Wage - Fixing Machinery, 1928; No. 29, Forced Labour, 1930; No. 58, Minimum Age (Sea) (Revised), 1936; No. 64, Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers), 1939; No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers), 1939; No. 82, Social Policy (Non-Metropolitan Territories), 1947; No. 83, Labour Standards (Non-Metropolitan Territories), 1947; No. 84, Rights of Association (Non-Metropolitan Territories), 1947; No. 85, Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers); No. 98, Rights to Organize and Collective Bargaining, 1949; No. 105, Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957; No. 108, Seafarer's Identity Documents, 1958; No. 150, Labour Administration, 1978; and No. 151, Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978. The following ILO Conventions have been applied to St. Helena with modifications: No. 17, Workmen's Compensation (Accidents), 1925; No. 59, Minimum Age (Industry), 1937; No. 63, Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938; and No. 87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, 1948. Annual reports as called for by ILO are submitted to the United Kingdom Government.

C. Housing

72. There is a pressing need for housing on the island. A survey conducted by the Environmental Health Department of the St. Helena Government has indicated that special expenditure of approximately £7 million, spread over several years, will be necessary to meet existing needs. During the period under review, Development-aid funding for the construction of eight houses was approved. These houses are being constructed by private contractors. During the same period, housing loans amounted to £236,550. Building materials were available from the Government to persons in receipt of housing loans at an additional 20 per cent of the cost to cover overhead.

D. Public health

73. According to the administering Power, the general state of health of the population is good and its nutritional status is generally satisfactory.

74. Public health is the responsibility of the Public Health Committee of the Legislative Council. The Public Health Department is administered by the Chief Medical Officer.

75. The Territory has one general hospital at Jamestown, a mental hospital at Half Tree Hollow and a handicap day centre at Longwood. There are seven rural health centres at strategic sites in the Territory, which are visited regularly by the doctors and community nurses.

76. The senior medical staff establishment at various health centres was as follows in 1990:

(a) General hospital, 1 chief medical officer, 2 medical officers, 1 senior nursing officer, 2 nursing officer/nurse tutors, 2 junior nursing sisters, 2 paramedical assistants, 3 staff nurses and 1 senior dispenser;

(b) Dental clinic, 1 dental officer and 1 dental hygienist;

(c) Community nursing services, 1 community nursing officer, 1 junior nursing sister and 3 staff nurses;

(d) Environmental health, 1 senior environmental health officer and 1 environmental health officer;

(e) Laboratory, 1 laboratory technician and 1 senior assistant laboratory technician;

(f) Mental hospital, 1 nursing officer and 2 staff nurses;

(g) Administrative office, 1 senior executive officer and 1 executive officer.

There were no private practitioners.

77. During the period from 1 April 1989 to 31 March 1990, 939 persons were admitted to hospital and there were 36 deaths in hospital. The total number of deaths in the Territory during the same period was 51. Forty-four major and 251 minor operations were performed during 1989/90.

78. Attendance at out-patients clinics during 1989/90 was 13,404, a rate of 2.37 per capita per annum, and an average of 37 patients a day, 7 days a week. During the same period, a total of 9,001 prescriptions were issued for 15,583 items. Preventive medicine continued actively. Immunization in the school population was 100 per cent for diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, rubella and tuberculosis.

79. During the period under review, a total of 11 patients were referred to hospital in the United Kingdom at a cost of £40,190, and 24 patients were referred to Cape Town, South Africa.

80. During January and February 1990, a significant increase in bacterial contamination of water supplies was registered. The percentage of the faecal contaminant organism Escherichia coli, in addition to non-pathogenic ciliform organisms and soil bacteria, became quite unacceptable and the Chief Medical Officer recommended that all water used for drinking in certain areas should be boiled. The situation is now reported to be improving.

81. Dental service at outlying clinics was started at the beginning of 1989. During the period under review, 800 patients were seen for treatment. A large number of older people took advantage of the service and received treatment at their local clinics. All children were inspected by the dentist at school and all children with decayed permanent teeth were treated. In 1990, all schools were visited by members of the Dental Department who carried out dental health education.

82. The Physiotherapy Department continued to provide services to outpatients, inpatients, people at home, geriatrics and the disabled. All physiotherapy equipment used is in good working order.

83. The total number of laboratory investigations carried out during 1989 was 15,225, comprising 3,037 bio-chemical, 3,334 microbiological, 8,079 haematological and 775 serological tests. Blood transfusions totalled 40. The number of cervical smears screened was 281.

84. The territorial Government continued a number of training programmes in the field of public health. Such programmes included practical, in-service and specialized nursing courses. In 1989, a medical laboratory technician completed a laboratory technology course at Bristol, United Kingdom. In July 1989, a nurse-tutor completed a one-year course at York, United Kingdom. With the aim of further improving health care standards in the Territory, the Government intends to ensure one training place per year for registered nurses in the United Kingdom.

85. In March 1990, testing equipment for the human immunodeficiency virus was delivered to the Territory.

86. Recurrent public health expenditure in 1989/90 was £912,898. Total expenditure (recurrent plus capital) in that year was 5.47 per cent of the total government recurrent expenditure.

E. Social security and welfare

87. There is no national pension scheme nor is there any statutory provision for the payment of social security benefits although the Government, in respect of its own employees and certain other employers which together make

up the great majority of the work force, provides pension or other retirement benefits. Financial provision to cover all social security payments is made in the annual estimates of the Employment and Social Services Department.

88. There is no national health insurance scheme in the Territory. Government employees may receive full-pay sick leave of up to 60 days in any calendar year and half pay thereafter for the same period. Those of the population who belong to one or more of the six Friendly Benefit Societies can expect to receive sickness benefits.

89. At the end of March 1990, 513 needy persons were in receipt of income-related benefit payments in the form of cash issues varying from £16.20 to £33.20 per week. A Home Help Scheme was launched in 1981 and at the end of March 1990 employed some 53 women. In addition, an unemployment allowance varying from £10.90 upwards is payable.

90. The Employment and Social Services Committee of the Legislative Council has general responsibility for the government Employment and Social Services Department, and is concerned with a wide range of matters, including the Old People's and Children's Homes, housing priorities, playgrounds, the swimming pool, parks, social centres, the market, the recruitment of labour and the administration of social security payments to the needy. The annual budgetary provision for the period from 1 April 1989 to 31 March 1990 for social security and welfare was as follows:

	Pounds sterling
General and administration (including social security)	536 800
Personal services	73 400
Children's Home	21 200
Old People's Home	76 000
Swimming pool	25 600
Employment Unit	2 100
	735 100

F. Education

91. In 1941, the Government assumed responsibility for all education on St. Helena which had formerly been provided by the Anglican church, the main pioneer in the field since the mid-nineteenth century. All schools are directly controlled by the Government Education Department, with special powers given to the Education Committee. The schools are administered by the Chief Education Officer, assisted by three education officers, two assistant education officers, executive officers and four clerks. During the period under review, illiteracy in the Territory was estimated at 1 per cent of the total population 10 years of age and older.

92. Education is free. Attendance is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, but the power to exempt children over 15 years lies with the Education Committee. There are 12 schools in the Territory. The number of teachers in 1989 was 114, 9 of whom were St. Helenians. In 1989/90, the school enrolment totalled 1,270 (1,241 indigenous). The distribution of pupils among schools was as follows:

	Indigenous		Non-indigenous	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
First schools a/	252	242	5	10
Middle schools b/	182	184	6	6
Secondary school c/	135	168	2	-
Vocational training d/	32	46	-	-
	601	640	13	16

a/ Pupils range 5 to 8 years of age.

b/ Pupils range from 8 to 12 years of age.

c/ Pupils range from 12 to 15 years of age.

d/ As there is no separate institution, vocational training is provided at a secondary school for students 15-18 years of age.

93. The Education Department has added rural science to its curriculum in secondary schools. In addition, the Agriculture and Forestry Department runs a youth-training scheme, which employs youths from 15 to 18 years of age and is being upgraded to provide full vocational training. A technical training centre has been operating for 14 years and is currently offering courses in masonry, carpentry, joinery and motor mechanics.

94. Adult education evening classes are held during the school term at the Central School. There were up to 12 classes with registration of approximately 109. This school also provides other recreational and leisure activities for adults.

95. Total education expenditure in 1989/90 was approximately 9.77 per cent of total government expenditure.

G. Human rights

96. The principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not embodied in the Constitution of St. Helena but are reflected in the laws of the Territory, which are based on the laws of the United Kingdom. Legal principles and procedures are set out in the civil and criminal procedure codes, which are also based on the laws of the United Kingdom. Local legislation is enacted by the Territory's Legislative Council, which has an elected islander majority. All legislation is subject to review by the Secretary of State in the United Kingdom Government. Anti-discriminatory legislation enacted by the United Kingdom applies to the Territory. According to the administering Power, it has never been necessary to invoke it, however, as there are no minorities or other groups that require protection. There is free expression of religious and political views.

H. Status of women

97. According to the administering Power, women are not subject to any discrimination under the law solely because of their sex. The regulations governing the public service guarantee equality of opportunity and conditions of service for men and women.

I. Crime and crime prevention

98. According to the administering Power, crime statistics for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1989 were as follows:

Number of persons accused

	Male	Female	Total
Assaults	12	1	13
Thefts/burglaries	32	7	39
Sexual offences	23	-	23
Local regulations	42	4	46
	109	12	121

No juveniles were accused of any crimes.

99. There is one correctional institution in the Territory, which has accommodation for 13 male prisoners and 3 juveniles, as well as a separate wing for 2 females. During the period under review, 70 adult males and 8 adult females were committed to prison. The maximum prison population on any one day was eight persons; sentences ranged from one month to four years. Prison discipline is covered, inter alia, by the Gaol Rules 1960. Prisoners

undergoing sentence in excess of one month can, by good conduct, earn remission of up to one third of their sentence. They perform a wide variety of outdoor tasks for the benefit of the community in general. Where necessary, assistance in obtaining employment is given on discharge.

V. DEPENDENCIES OF ST. HELENA

A. Tristan da Cunha 6/

1. General

100. The island of Tristan da Cunha and the five small uninhabited islands constituting this dependency of St. Helena are among the most isolated in the world. The main island, of volcanic origin, is almost circular in shape, with an area of 99 square kilometres, rising to a central cone 2,060 metres above sea level.

101. Gough Island is about 370 kilometres south-south-east of Tristan da Cunha; Inaccessible and Nightingale and the two adjacent islets, Middle and Stoltenhoff, are about 32 kilometres from it.

102. The climate is temperate and oceanic with rapid weather changes, a wide temperature range and frequent rain. The islands are of considerable scientific interest because of their isolation and their special flora and fauna, which include numerous species not found elsewhere in the world.

103. As at 30 June 1990, the indigenous population of Tristan da Cunha, mainly of mixed descent, was 290. During the period from 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990, there were two deaths, one birth and one marriage among the islanders. The only settlement is Edinburgh, on the north coast.

2. Constitutional and political developments

104. The Administrator of Tristan da Cunha, who is also the Magistrate, is appointed by the United Kingdom and is responsible to the Governor of St. Helena for the administration of the dependency. Owing to the infrequent postal communications between the two islands, however, the Administrator reports directly to the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. The Governor is usually informed of important dispatches that are sent to London.

105. The Administrator is advised by the Island Council, which has advisory functions in legislative and executive matters and which consists of eight elected and three appointed members. The Council meets at intervals of not more than three months. Committees of the Council are elected from among members and other persons appointed to advise on agriculture and natural resources, public health and works, education and social welfare, as well as on postal policies.

106. Elections to the Island Council and for the position of Chief Islander are held every three years. All candidates are required to be over 21 years of age, and one or more of the elected members of the Council is required to be a woman. All persons over 18 years of age are eligible to vote. The last elections were held on 23 August 1988. Eighteen candidates ran for the eight posts in the Council. There was a turnout of 180 persons, or 72 per cent of the registered electorate. The candidate who polled 38 per cent of the vote, a woman, was elected as Chief Islander. There are no political parties on Tristan da Cunha. The next general election is scheduled for 23 August 1991.

3. Economic conditions

107. According to the administering Power, the dependency is essentially economically independent and remains in a favourable financial position, with reserves equalling about twice the normal annual recurrent expenditure.

108. The main industry of the island is crayfishing, which represents the chief source of employment for the population. Since 1968, the concession for crayfishing has been held by the South Atlantic Island Development Corporation, a Bermuda-based company, and is operated by the subsidiary Tristan Investments Ltd., of Cape Town. The royalty paid to the island for the concession ($US 294,000 in 1985) is the principal source of government revenue. To monitor the crayfish resources, the concessionnaire operates a tagging programme, the results of which are made available to the territorial Government and ODA in London. Fishing regulations aimed at conserving the long-term viability of crayfish stocks were introduced in 1983. Statistics of annual catches have been made available to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

109. An agricultural officer trained in the United Kingdom is employed by the Government to supervise local activities in agriculture and animal husbandry. In 1986, an experimental greenhouse was built in order to extend the seasonal production of vegetables, and soft fruits were imported from the United Kingdom for trial cultivation under local climatic conditions. Potatoes remain the principal crop of the island. There is self-sufficiency in egg production as a result of a government-sponsored project in poultry management. Under the terms of legislation that entered into force on 1 June 1985, the number of cattle has been limited to two head per family, in order to reduce the effects of overgrazing and to preserve pasture lands. At 31 December 1989, the numbers of cattle and sheep were 358 and 1,920, respectively. There were also small numbers of donkeys and pigs.

110. There was some progress during the period under review in timber production, mainly pine. A small forest plantation in the east of the island provided timber, which was used for gates and fencing, as well as for general building work.

111. The sale of postage stamps and other philatelic items is the island's second largest source of income. The island's unique postage stamps are much sought after by philatelists.

112. Private enterprise continued to be encouraged, although limited by the small size of the population. A café and a small potato crisp business are run by some of the women on the island. There is increased involvement in the making of handicrafts, notably knitwear, which are marketed by the government-supported Handicraft Centre.

113. The total recurrent revenue for 1989/90 was estimated at £736,000 and expenditure at £450,000. The 1990/91 budget estimates revenue at £592,656 and expenditure at £527,414. The main sources of revenue were fishing royalties, interest on investments held in the United Kingdom, the sale of stamps and philatelic material and the sale of handicrafts. There is no taxation, although all males between the ages of 18 and 65 years pay a nominal tax of 65 pence annually and a levy on imported alcoholic drinks and cigarettes, which is used to subsidize essential foodstuffs. At 30 June 1990, deposits at the local Post Office Savings Bank amounted to £103,613, compared with £131,711 at 30 June 1989.

4. Social conditions

114. According to the administering Power, the standard of living continues to show an upward trend. There is full employment for males and work is available for most women, with either the Government or the fishing industry. There are no trade unions on the island, owing to the limited workforce. Wage increases are granted by the Government and by Tristan Investment, Ltd., based on cost-of-living rises calculated on information provided to London by the Government. There is a government pension scheme to which employees contribute 3.75 per cent of their earnings up to a certain maximum, and employers contribute an equivalent amount. Pensions are paid to all persons over 65 years of age, as well as to widows, their dependent children and orphans. Legislation enables pensioners to retain casual earnings of up to 50 per cent of their pensions without deductions from their entitlement. As from 1 July 1988, the married couples' pension has been 55 per cent of the basic government wage.

115. Medical care is provided free of charge by the Government. The local hospital is staffed by a qualified medical officer from the United Kingdom, assisted by three locally trained nursing aides. A qualified dental officer and an optician, appointed by ODA, visit the island every other year and attend to all islanders requiring treatment. The next visit should take place in 1991. The most prevalent illnesses are asthma, epidemic viral illnesses and musculoskeletal problems. When required, medical treatment is provided overseas.

116. Recurrent expenditure on public health approved for 1990/91 amounted to £41,763, showing a £2,383 increase over 1989/90.

117. Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Enrolment as of July 1990 (excluding pre-school) was 33 pupils, with one qualified and eight assistant teachers. With regard to adult

education, working men and women are encouraged to attend evening classes for further education under a "day-release" programme. Estimates for recurrent expenditure on education in 1990/91 amounted to some £22,000, compared with £21,000 during 1989/90.

5. Public service

118. There were three expatriate officers from the United Kingdom employed on contract during the period under review: the Administrator, the Medical Officer and the Education Officer. The present policy is to train islanders abroad so that they will be able to fill senior posts in the Government after they obtain the relevant qualifications. During the period under review, one person was undergoing nursing training and two attended teacher training courses in the United Kingdom. One islander was studying at Denstone College in the United Kingdom.

B. Ascension

119. The island of Ascension has an area of 88 square kilometres, is volcanic in origin and is barren, except for the upper slopes of Green Mountain. The climate is tropical but dry, with large variations between the capital, Georgetown, on the west coast, and Green Mountain.

120. Ascension has no indigenous population. Its population varies from year to year according to the availability of local employment, and consists mainly of St. Helenians (also Tristanians) and United Kingdom and United States expatriates. In December 1988, the population of the island was estimated at 1,035, of whom 683 were St. Helenians, 200 United Kingdom nationals, 139 United States nationals, and 13 others, not including British military personnel. 7/

121. The Advisory Council, composed of representatives of the organizations operating in the island, assists the Administrator in running the island. Some of the organizations are: the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the South Atlantic Cable Company, Cable and Wireless, Ltd., NASA and the United States Air Force.

122. During the Second World War, the United States Government established, under agreement with the United Kingdom, an airstrip, which was expanded and improved in the 1960s. Since 1956, when a further agreement was concluded between the two Governments, the base has been operated by NASA as part of the United States rocket-tracking system.

123. Ascension was regarrisoned during the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) conflict in 1982. As a result of the conflict, it was reported that several facilities on the island had been further improved and expanded, including the installation of an additional water desalination plant and the laying of a 5-kilometre-long oil pipeline. A new Royal Air Force camp was completed in

1984. 7/ An airstrip near the settlement of Georgetown was being extended in 1985. 8/ Ascension continues to provide a key link to British supply lines to the South Atlantic. 9/

124. The island is an important communications centre serving as a relay station operated by the South Atlantic Cable Company for telegrams between South Africa and Europe, and by Cable and Wireless, Ltd., for international telecommunications. BBC also operates a relay station on the island, and a long-wave broadcasting station has been established.

125. Construction and other forms of development have retained the services of workers from St. Helena. According to the administering Power, as those contracts are completed it is hoped that the workers will be able to accept newly identified vacancies, mostly in construction work and as canteen staff, in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

126. Green Mountain Farm, which is run by Cable and Wireless, Ltd., produces fresh meat, milk and vegetables. The vast majority of foodstuffs and other items are, however, imported.

127. The island's major source of revenue is the sale of postage stamps. Revenue and expenditure for the year ending 31 March 1987, the latest data available, were £200,111 and £337,434, respectively. 8/

128. Until April 1984, Cable and Wireless, Ltd., operated a school linked to the St. Helena educational system for infants and primary and secondary students. It also provided a resident medical officer and hospital facilities. These and other services, such as the island's power and water supply, have since been taken over by Ascension Island Services.

129. The island is also of considerable scientific interest, as it is a breeding site for the green turtle and various species of sea birds.

Notes

1/ Information regarding St. Helena and its dependencies, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension, has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

2/ Population and Vital Statistics Report: Data Available as of 1 October 1989, Statistical Papers, Series A, vol. XLI, No. 4 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.A/171).

3/ United Kingdom, House of Commons, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), 21 October 1986, cols. 851 and 852.

4/ Ibid., 1 December 1987, col. 483.

Notes (continued)

5/ Ibid., vol. 156, No. 136, col. 162.

6/ Information on Tristan da Cunha has been derived from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom under Article 73 e of the Charter, on 10 September 1990, for the period 1989/90.

7/ The Europa World Yearbook, 1989, vol. II, p. 2787.

8/ The Statesman's Yearbook, 1989-1990, p. 1047.

9/ Africa South of the Sahara, 1988, 17th ed. (Europa, 1987), p. 817.